

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE MANUAL	
	Chapter 11: Independent Living	Effective Date: July 1, 2006
	Section 9: Host Home	Version: 1

POLICY [REVISED]
OLD POLICY: 404.482

- The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will allow a youth whose case has been dismissed to make living arrangements via “host home” arrangements.

Code References

- N/A

PROCEDURE

The Family Case Manager (FCM)/Probation Officer will:

- Assure that all youth who have their 18th birthday while in foster care are given the option of locating a possible host home if desired by the youth when their case is dismissed including youth placed in a relative home through an Interstate Compact.
- Determine if a host home agreement would be appropriate and in the youth’s best interest in the following situations when his/her case is dismissed:
 - the youth’s current foster parent and the youth mutually agree to remain in the foster home as a boarder; or
 - the youth’s relatives, other than the his/her legal or biological parents, in which the relative and the youth mutually agree for him/her to become a boarder in their home; or
 - the youth has an appropriate adult (such as a neighbor, coach, fellow church member, etc.), in their life in which the adult and the youth mutually agree for him/her to become a boarder in the home.
- Refer eligible youth requesting a host home arrangement to the Chafee IL service provider for Room and Board service. See [Chafee Foster Care Independence Program Service Standards](#) for details.

The Chafee IL Contracted Service Provider will:

- Assist the relative, other appropriate adult, or foster parent in developing a reasonable mutually agreed upon [Host Home Agreement](#) between the host home and the youth.

PRACTICE GUIDANCE

See Tool: [Host Home Agreement](#)

Definition of a Host Home

A host home living arrangement is one where a youth rents a room in a family or single adult’s home and shares basic facilities and agrees to basic rules while being largely responsible for his/her own life. Host homes are a great solution in rural areas where apartment buildings are

scarce and house rentals may be cost prohibitive. Host homes are similar to foster homes, except the host is not necessarily a licensed foster parent and does not usually have to go through the process of having the home licensed. Host home living arrangements provide an opportunity for a youth to develop skills prior to becoming independent and living on his/her own.

A host home can be a former foster parent, teacher, coach, relative, or church member who is with whom the youth has a positive relationship. In this environment, the youth would be able to come and go as he/she choose and be expected to manage his/her time, money, school, work, and appointments without oversight from the host home. The youth is expected to follow the rules of the home as with any other renting situation.

Determining the Appropriate Rent for a Host Home

The youth and the host should mutually decide upon an amount of financial compensation the host will receive while the youth is living in the home, subject to approval of DCS. Factors to consider when determining financial compensation for a host home should include:

- The amount of time the youth will live in the home.
- The employment status of the youth.
- The financial status of the youth.
- The educational and vocational goals of the youth.
- The health and behavioral needs of the youth.

Host Homes When Receiving Education And Training Voucher (ETV) Assistance

Youth may access funding for a host home through the ETV program while attending college or trade/vocational programs. The host home agreement may be developed between the youth and the host home with the assistance of the Chafee IL service provider prior to receiving ETV funding or may be developed with the assistance of the youth's FCM. The signed host home agreement must be provided to the ETV program in order for the host home to receive financial compensation from this program.

FORMS AND TOOLS

- [Host Home Agreement](#)

RELATED INFORMATION

Room and Board Payments

Room and Board payments will only be made through a contracted service provider who is providing independent living case management services to the youth.

Housing Assistance

Youth may not access housing assistance from both the Chafee room and board funds and the ETV at the same time. Those attending school full time or part time must access assistance for housing through the ETV Program at www.statevoucher.org.